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NOTES ON THE MAMMALS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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THE following is an annotated list of mammals observed during a three weeks' stay in Prince Edward Island in the fall of 1897.

1. *Sciurus hudsonicus gymnicus*.—A fairly common species. My specimens agree pretty closely in size with those from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is interesting to note that skins from this section average decidedly smaller than those from Ontario (Miller)¹ and Labrador (Bangs).² This seems rather strange, considering that in grading off into the southern form, *loquax*, it increases rather than diminishes in size. Average of six specimens from New Brunswick (American Museum of Natural History, New York): total length, 277; tail, 110; hind foot, 43. Average of ten from Digby, Nova Scotia (Bangs): total length, 296; tail, 113; hind foot, 45. Average of two from Prince Edward Island (Young): total length, 282; tail, 113; hind foot, 45. Average of four from Hamilton Inlet, Labrador (Bangs): total length, 309; tail, 120; hind foot, 48. Average of eight from Ontario (Miller): total length, 309; tail, 121; hind foot, 47. Average of eight *Sciurus h. loquax* from Liberty Hill, Connecticut (Bangs): total length, 318; tail, 134; hind foot, 47.

2. *Mus musculus*.—One specimen was caught in a bushy field, largely grown up with *Juncus*, near Georgetown.

3. *Peromyscus canadensis*.—Two specimens were all that I secured, both being taken beneath a stump fence bordering some wet woodland, near Kensington. As both are immature I cannot state with certainty the variety, but they appear

¹ Mammals of Ontario, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, vol. xxviii, No. 1, pp. 1-44.

² A Review of the Squirrels of Eastern North America, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, vol. x, pp. 145-167.

to be *Peromyscus canadensis*. The scarcity of this species seems remarkable.

4. *Evotomys gapperi*. — A small series was secured, mostly along the borders of woods.

5. *Microtus* ————. — The meadow mouse of Prince Edward Island is apparently an intermediate form between *M. pennsylvanicus* and *M. terrænovæ*. It has the slightly more flaring zygoma and slightly greater interorbital constriction of the latter species. Regarding the enamel pattern of *m*3, which Bangs¹ considers a characteristic feature of *M. terrænovæ*, I have not been able to distinguish any constant difference between that species and *M. pennsylvanicus*, although I have examined carefully the skulls of both species. The nose patches in my specimens, while more pronounced than in *M. pennsylvanicus* from New Brunswick and other points, are less so than in *M. terrænovæ*; and the color of the back is about intermediate between that of the latter species and of *M. pennsylvanicus* from New Brunswick, some skins having the brownish gray color of New Brunswick specimens, and others the reddish cast of *terrænovæ*. The under parts are similar in *M. terrænovæ*, *M. pennsylvanicus* from New Brunswick, and in the Prince Edward Island skins. The hind foot in *M. terrænovæ* ranges, according to Bangs, from 22 to 25 mm., while in my specimens it varies from 20 to 23 mm.

On the whole, I think the Prince Edward Island specimens are more similar to *M. terrænovæ* than to *M. pennsylvanicus*, but that they represent an intermediate stage between the two species, to which stage the New Brunswick *pennsylvanicus* skins show a decided approach. The specimens of *M. pennsylvanicus* from New Brunswick, to which I have referred in this comparison, came from the northern portion of the province, in the region of the Tobique River. It would, I think, be premature to attempt to name the Prince Edward Island form without having for comparison a series of skins from the coast of New Brunswick, opposite Prince Edward Island, and also from the Magdalen Islands, which lie in the Gulf of St. Lawrence,

¹ Description of a New Field Mouse from Codroy, Newfoundland, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, vol. ix, pp. 129-132.

between Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, about seventy miles northeast of the former.

The meadow mouse was one of the commonest mammals of the island, inhabiting sand bars, salt and fresh marshes, and dike lands, as well as damp, bushy clearings abounding in *Juncus*. They were most numerous on the Cascumpeque sand bar, near Alberton, a long, low, sandy island grown up with *Amphiphila arundinacea*, *Achillea millefolium*, and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, and mostly dry, but with a few brackish ponds which communicated with the sea at very high tides. Here the ground was simply honeycombed by their runways.

6. *Fiber zibethicus*. — A common species along the arms of the sea, which make into the island at many points, and in fresh ponds, etc.

7. *Lepus americanus virginianus* (?). — Rabbits were reported as quite common on the island, but I secured only one. This agrees quite closely with specimens of *americanus* (?) from New Brunswick in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, but according to Bangs¹ it is probably *virginianus*. Not having seen any specimens of the hare from farther north, I have been unable to make a satisfactory comparison.

The pelage of my specimen is changing from the summer to the winter stage.

8. *Sorex personatus*. — A common species, occurring mostly in or near wooded swamps. My specimens agree with those from northern Canada, which are larger than those from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as pointed out by Miller in his "Mammals of Ontario," already mentioned, thus showing perhaps an approach to the Alaskan form *S. streatorii*.

The average size of twenty-eight adults is : total length, 103 ; tail, 45 ; hind foot, 12.

9. *Sorex hoyi*. — Three specimens of this shrew were all that I secured. They were trapped in or near swampy woods. According to measurements of a number of these shrews from other localities, my specimens are slightly smaller than the average *hoyi*. The average of my specimens is : total length,

¹ The Eastern Races of the American Varying Hare, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, vol. xii, pp. 77-82.

86; tail, 30; hind foot, 9. The average of five specimens from Ontario (see "Mammals of Ontario," Miller) is: total length, 92; tail, 32; hind foot, 10. (I do not quote any other measurements here, because they were not made in the flesh and are consequently not reliable.)

10. *Blarina brevicauda*. — Only two specimens were secured, both being taken in a small strip of woods bordering a marshy pond at Kensington.

Hypothetical List.

While the following species did not come under my own observation, I obtained records of them from several observers whom I considered trustworthy.

1. *Tamias striatus*. Fairly common. The chipmunks had probably hibernated before I reached the island.

2. *Sciuropterus sabrinus*. Very rare.

3. *Lynx* —————. Very rare.

4. *Vulpes fulvus*. Fairly common.

5. *Ursus americanus*. Occurred formerly.

6. *Lutra canadensis*. Few.

7. *Putorius vison*. Fairly common.

8. *Mustela americana*. Very scarce.

A curious feature of the mammal life of the island is the absence of porcupines and skunks, neither of which, according to reports from several observers, occur on the island, though both are said to occur on the mainland opposite.

All measurements in this paper are in millimeters.

In conclusion I desire to thank Dr. J. A. Allen and Mr. S. N. Rhoads for access to the collections of mammals in their care for comparison.